

Never one to shy away from the tough questions, Paul earned his reputation as being a tough but fair interviewer, whose only motivation was to provide his listeners with the most up-to-date information available.

He has given back to the Kearney community in so many ways—as an instructor, a volunteer, and a member of many local community boards—yet I fully expect this service to continue.

I wish him well in his retirement and I hope he knows how much he will be missed.

### SALUTE TO NOVATO HUMAN NEEDS CENTER

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 1, 2007*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you to share with me in saluting the Novato Human Needs Center on its 35th anniversary of serving the low-income people of Novato and helping them move towards self-sufficiency.

The Novato Human Needs Center began in 1972 when three people—Gene Quinones, a Catholic priest, Bob Stockwell, a Protestant businessman, and Mary Banks, a black welfare mom—came together that Thanksgiving season with the desire to help those in need. With \$50 and a heart full of good intentions, they gave birth to the Holiday Share program, allowing those who have to give what they can to those in need. Since then, the nonprofit has helped thousands of residents, has increased its services to provide year-round assistance, and has grown to operate on a budget of more than \$1.4 million.

Such is the power of the organization's philosophy that those who come for help—seniors, immigrants, the disabled, those in unexpected crisis—are often those who years later become the helpers. One anonymous donor, once a poor immigrant and now a wealthy resident, subsidizes the center's rental assistance program which allows someone experiencing a temporary and unexpected crisis, such as a medical emergency or job loss, to get one-time help with rent or mortgage payments. Among those whom this program saved was an elderly woman left without an income when her husband died. Because of the donor's generosity, Novato Human Needs Center was able to cover the widow's rent until social security checks arrived in her name.

"It really is neighbor helping neighbor," notes Susan Markavage, a Novato resident who works at the center.

In addition to rental assistance, the center has instituted programs for such wide-ranging services as providing emergency food, job training and financial, as well as continuing the traditional Holiday Share.

In fact, the center—which operates out of facilities underwritten by the City of Novato—even provides showers for the homeless, many of whom work but simply can't afford housing in Marin County, one of the Nation's most expensive places to live.

"One of them," Markavage explains, "cleans our parking lot thoroughly every morning before coming in."

Although Novato Human Needs Center is unique in that it provides comprehensive serv-

ices to those in need, it also is "a wonderful place for the community to come together and connect," says executive director Deanna Euritt.

Novato has a very strong sense of community, she explains, and it is because of the community's support that the center exists and continues to operate. "We're very grateful to the City of Novato and all the residents who live here who have been very generous not only with their financial contributions, but with their time."

As one donor said, "God's been really good to me and I feel this need to be good to someone else who might be in dire circumstances."

And that, Madam Speaker, is what makes the center a valuable member of the Novato community—neighbors helping neighbors. Congratulations to the Novato Human Needs Center on its 35th anniversary, and to the people of Novato for supporting such a worthy organization.

### FLOOD INSURANCE REFORM AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. AL GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 27, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3121) to restore the financial solvency of the national flood insurance program and to provide for such program to make available multi-peril coverage for damage resulting from windstorms, and floods, and for other purposes:

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I am honored to be a co-sponsor of H.R. 3121, "The Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act of 2007" and I would like to thank Chairman FRANK. Subcommittee Chairwoman WATERS, Representative TAYLOR, and Representative JINDAL for their leadership in reforming a program that plays a vital role in protecting residents and communities in flood prone areas.

Flood protection is an important issue in my district and in Texas, a state which has experienced the greatest number of flood and flash flood deaths over the past 36 years. In 2006, Texas saw an increase of over 20 percent in new flood insurance policies under the National Flood Insurance Program.

I want to thank Chairman FRANK for working with Congressman HINOJOSA and I in committee to preserve subsidies for those properties that serve as affordable rental housing for many families. A measure was included in the bill to acknowledge that the loss of subsidies for properties that serve as primary homes for rental households could result in significantly higher premiums, to the detriment of these families. Higher premiums would increase the cost of property ownership, a cost that apartment owners would likely pass on to tenants in the form of higher rents. By protecting subsidies for these properties, this measure would ensure their continued affordability at a time when our nation is faced with a shortage of affordable housing.

I want to also express my strong support for a provision in the bill authored by my colleague Congressman TAYLOR to expand the

National Flood Insurance Program to include coverage for wind damage.

Multi-peril coverage, or the coverage of both wind and flood risk in one policy, has proven especially important in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita as survivors continue to struggle to receive fair compensation for the damages they experienced. Private insurers have used anti-concurrent causation clauses to deny payment for damages on the grounds that the damages occurred as a result of flooding, which is covered by the Federal government. Multi-peril coverage would shield consumers from these arguably deceptive practices, protecting consumers in the absence of a solution to this controversy.

Again, I express my full support for this important piece of legislation.

### TRIBUTE TO BISHOP GREGORY MANSOUR

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 1, 2007*

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Most Reverend Gregory John Mansour on the 25th anniversary of his ordination. Bishop Mansour will be honored at Divine Liturgy and festivities on Sunday, October 7th in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

After graduating from Western Michigan University in 1977, Gregory Mansour entered Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Seminary in Washington, D.C. and attended Catholic University of America. Graduating with a degree in Theological Studies in 1981, he was ordained a priest on September 18, 1982 by Bishop John Chedid at St. Michael Church in Flint. He celebrated his first Divine Liturgy at Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Church and then traveled to Rome to continue his studies earning his License in Spiritual Theology from the Gregorian Pontifical Institute.

Returning from a trip to Lebanon in 1983, Father Mansour began his work as a parish priest. He worked as an administrator at St. Maron Parish in Philadelphia and served 11 years as pastor to St. George Maronite Catholic Church in Uniontown, Pennsylvania. Bishop John Chedid tapped him to serve as the Eparchy's Protosyncellus, Vicar General, and Chancellor for the newly formed Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon in Los Angeles in 1994. He also served as Advocate/Procurator for the Eparchial Marriage Tribunal.

His Beatitude Patriarch Nasrallah Peter Cardinal Sfeir nominated him to Chorbishop and he was ordained on January 21, 1996. When Bishop Chedid retired his replacement, Bishop Robert J. Shaheen, with the concurrence of the Holy See, moved the See of the Diocese from Los Angeles to St. Louis, Missouri. Chorbishop Mansour relocated and assumed the additional duties as rector of St. Raymond Cathedral and began teaching Spiritual Theology at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary.

When Bishop Stephen Hector Douelhi retired, His Holiness Pope John Paul II named Bishop Mansour to succeed him as the head of the Eparchy of Saint Maron in Brooklyn. Ordained a bishop in Lebanon on March 2, 2004, he was enthroned in Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Cathedral in Brooklyn on April 27, 2004.